



**John Bel Edwards**  
Governor

# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DRUG POLICY

**Dr. Chaunda Mitchell**  
Director, Drug Policy &  
Executive Director,  
Diversity and Inclusion

**Kristy Miller**  
Project Director

**DRUG POLICY BOARD**  
**April 11, 2019; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Louisiana State Capitol Building, 900 N. Third Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Press Room**

## MINUTES

### **Call to Order**

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chaunda announced that there were 15 members present which means that we have a quorum.

### **Old Business**

#### *A. Review and approve minutes*

Chaunda reminded everyone that the minutes were emailed prior to the meeting. She asked everyone to make a final review of the minutes and then requested a motion to approve. Dr. Vincent Culotta, Executive Director of the LA State Board of Medical Examiners, made a motion to approve. Michael Comeaux, Department of Education, seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote for approval.

#### *B. Senate Concurrent Resolution as a result of HOPE Council Report*

Kristy Miller, DPB staffer from the Governor's Office of Drug Policy, reminded everyone about the presentation of the HOPE Council report that was made during the January 2019 meeting. As part of that report, recommendations for consideration by the Drug Policy Board were presented. One recommendation was for the Drug Policy Board to assist the HOPE Council by advocating for the passage of a legislative instrument that would designate a lead agency to coordinate the work that has been charged to the HOPE Council through Act 88. The Drug Policy Board agreed to provide assistance and asked Kristy to work with Senator Regina Barrow, a member of the HOPE Council, on language for a Senate Concurrent Resolution. Kristy and Senator Barrow's office developed a Resolution which was introduced on the Senate floor yesterday, April 10. Kristy will monitor progress of the Resolution and provide support to Senator Barrow's office, if needed.

#### *C. Update: Opinion Request from Attorney General Regarding Hemp*

Kristy reminded everyone about the discussion from the January meeting regarding the removal of hemp from the definition of marijuana at the federal level which de-facto legalized hemp for cultivation. The conclusion of the discussion was that District Attorney Warren Montgomery wanted to submit a request to the Attorney General's Office for a formal opinion about whether the federal law change conflicted with state law and, if so, which law was supreme. Warren asked Kristy if he could use background information she had developed for the Drug Policy Board in his opinion request. On March 18, DA Montgomery's office submitted a request for a

formal opinion to the Attorney General's office. As of this morning, he has not received a response as to whether the request will be fulfilled.

## **New Business**

### *A. Marijuana Impact Issue Brief*

Kristy reported that the third draft of the issue brief has been circulated to members and she is awaiting responses. At this rate, the Brief should be completed by August.

### *B. 2019 Legislative Session: Review of Drug Policy Bills*

Kristy presented a review of the drug policy related bills that were filed for consideration during the 2019 legislative session. At three days into the session, all bills have been filed. The count of total bills being tracked is 49. The breakdown is 40 primary bills (31 HBs, 9 SBs) and 9 secondary bills (7 HBs, 2 SBs). The secondary bills are ones that may not be directly related to drug policy, but could have big implications for stakeholder agencies. The following substances are being addressed by one or more bills: Alcohol, Tobacco and Vapor Products, Opioids, Illicit drugs, Marijuana and Hemp. Several bills address the related issue of impaired driving.

Members received a list of bill numbers, authors, status, and abstracts for all relevant bills. Within the document, the bill numbers are linked to the website for each bill for readers to easily access them if they want to view the actual language of any bill. Kristy committed to send the electronic version of the document to members within 24 hours.

Kristy called attention to several bills of major concern. Discussions were had about many of the bills. Members were asked to provide position papers, research, background information, and/or statements of concerns about any specific bills. Chaunda and Kristy will review and share with others in the Governor's Office.

## **Other Business**

### *A. Agency updates*

Board of Pharmacy: Malcolm Broussard, Executive Director, announced that the LBP has begun the process to amend its rules for medical marijuana dosing. With the growing list of debilitating conditions that can be treated with medical marijuana, there are different dosages of CBD that are needed to treat each. These changes would allow products that are more appropriate to address the various conditions by slightly changing the ratio of CBD to THC levels.

LA Dept of Health: Dr. Janice Petersen, Assistant Deputy Secretary for LDH, shared a one-pager about a report that was recently released by the Bipartisan Policy Center. LA was chosen to participate in a study with four other states about how the states are using their opioid crisis funds. 2017 STR and SOR \$1.5 billion from Congress looked at data about how funds are being spent. They did a good job. Full report is available. Probably will be responding and LA will likely participate in a second iteration of the study.

DEA: Scott Arseneaux, Associate Special Agent in Charge, reminded everyone that the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 27. The DEA has a website to find local drop-off locations. Please promote, but also please participate.

*B. Resource document: The Advocate article - What's the deal with CBD oil in Louisiana?*

Kristy referred to the newspaper article in member's packets related to the hot topic of cannabidiol which is a cannabinoid extracted from the cannabis plant.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Chaunda reminded everyone that the meetings listed below are open to all Drug Policy Board members, even if they are not designated to serve on these boards and commissions.

- DWI Task Force – May 9, 2019, 10am – 12noon
- State Epidemiology Workgroup – May 15, 2019, 10am – 12noon
- Prevention Systems Committee – June 27, 2019, 10am – 12noon
- Heroin & Opioid Prevention and Education Council – June 20, 2019, 1pm-3pm
- Drug Policy Board – July 11, 2019, 10am – 12noon

**Adjournment**

The presentation of content ended so Chaunda asked for a motion to adjourn. Michael made a motion to adjourn. Barry Robinson, LA Dept of Veterans Affairs, seconded the motion. There were no objections so the meeting was adjourned.

## VOTING MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Alcohol industry representative	Kody Thompson (for Buddy Schilling)	Yes
Attorney General's Office	Alberto DePuy	Yes
Board of Pharmacy	Malcolm Broussard	Yes
District Court Judge	Judge Jules Edwards	Yes
Federal agency with AOD ed/treatment/prev responsibilities	Scott Arseneaux ( for Brad Byerley)	Yes
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Dr. Chaunda Mitchell	Yes
House member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Vacant	--
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant	--
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier	No
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Alfreda Tillman Bester	Yes
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux	Yes
Louisiana Department of Health	Dr. Janice Petersen	Yes
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Dr. John Morrison	No
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Warren Montgomery	No
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Paul Toups (for Juana Lombard)	Yes
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Jay Dixon	No
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Shannon Dirman	Yes
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Nugent	Yes
National Guard	Major Marshall Snowden	Yes
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter	Yes
Private organization involved in substance abuse prevention	Vacant	--
Senate member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Senator Yvonne Colomb	No

## OF-COUNSEL MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Dr. Vincent Culotta	Yes
LA Department of Veteran's Affairs	Barry Robinson	Yes

## STAFF

Kristy Miller, Governor's Office of Drug Policy

## GUESTS

Dortha Cummins, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission  
Cathy Childers, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission  
Dr. Leslie Freeman, LDH/Office of Behavioral Health  
Dr. Carolin Purser, Social Research and Evaluation Center at LSU  
Dr. Stephen Barnes, Social Research and Evaluation Center at LSU  
Randy Harness, Drug Enforcement Administration  
Taryn Branson, Governor's office  
Leslie Chambers, Governor's Office  
Mike Barron, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission  
Julie Freeman, Louisiana Health Care Commission, Department of Insurance